

Remarks

The Examiner has required restriction between (I) claims 1-9 and (II) claims 10-14, in response to which Applicants elect claims 1-9 with traverse.

The Examiner takes the position that no special technical feature exists among the claims of Groups I and II because the inventions thereof fail to make a contribution over the prior art and are therefore not "special."


However, claims 10-14 have now been amended to be directed to urea granules instead of a carboxylic acid compound. Applicants note that the method of claims 1-9 results in urea granules having the carboxylic acid compound on the surface of the granules, as apparent from, for example, the first two paragraphs on page 3 of the specification.

In view of these amendments, it is apparent that the claims do involve a single inventive concept, since the urea granules of claims 10-14 result from the method of claims 1-9. Accordingly, the restriction requirement should be withdrawn.

Action on the merits is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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